



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Labor Cabinet

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**Steven L. Beshear, Governor**

**Larry L. Roberts, Secretary**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Big Rivers Sebree Station Earns 10<sup>th</sup> Governor's Safety and Health Award**

*Employees work more than 1.5 million hours without a lost-time incident*

**ROBARDS, Ky. (Aug. 27, 2014)** – Secretary Larry L. Roberts of the Kentucky Labor Cabinet joined employees and officials in Robards today to present the employees of Big Rivers Sebree Station with the Governor's Safety and Health Award. The honor recognizes the employees for working 1,502,074 hours without a lost-time accident or illness.

“Safety should be a culture that runs throughout an organization, and Big Rivers has established such a culture and a reputation for embracing safety,” said Secretary Roberts. “The Sebree Station employees deserve tremendous credit for this award, which is yet another accomplishment in a long line of safety honors for Big Rivers.”

Incorporated in 1961, Big Rivers has earned 34 previous Governor's Safety and Health Awards throughout the years. The corporation is a member-owned, not-for-profit, generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Henderson. With nearly 600 employees, Big Rivers owns, operates and maintains a 1,285-mile transmission system, three generating plants and 22 substations.

“Today’s celebration marks Big Rivers’ 35<sup>th</sup> Governor’s Safety and Health Award company-wide,” said Bob Berry, president and CEO of Big Rivers. “These honors don’t occur by accident; it takes a planned and collaborative effort by everyone in the company. I am thrilled to express my gratitude to each individual employee for their dedication to maintaining the safety tradition at Big Rivers. More specifically, I want to recognize the leadership of the IBEW for creating the safety culture we currently have in place. It takes more than just top management to be responsible for a company’s safety achievements, and in our case, it was the IBEW’s leadership that embraced and developed this successful safety culture.”

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1701 represents the employees at Sebree Station. The national IBEW union traces its roots to the late 1800s, and is the oldest and largest electrical union in the world.

With approximately 225 employees, Sebree Station is comprised of three generating stations: Robert A. Reid, Robert D. Green, and Henderson Municipal Power and Light Station II. The three power plants combined have a capacity to produce 896 megawatts of electricity.

“Safety is a way of life at Big Rivers, and our people are our greatest asset,” said Ron Gregory, Sebree Station plant manager. “We believe no operating condition or urgency of service can ever justify endangering the health and well-being of anyone.”

Big Rivers is owned by three distribution cooperative members: Jackson Purchase Energy Corp., headquartered in Paducah; Kenergy Corp., headquartered in Henderson; and Meade County Rural Electric Cooperative Corp., headquartered in Brandenburg. These member cooperatives deliver retail electric power and energy to more than 113,000 residential, commercial, and industrial customers in portions of 22 western Kentucky counties.

“Our organization is very proud of the Sebree Station employees for reaching this significant achievement,” said Jim Garrett, vice president of production. “As one of our seven core values, safety is the foundation for all decisions and expectations of Big Rivers’ workforce. This award is a credit to all Sebree Station employees, and is an achievement to be applauded.”

The Kentucky Labor Cabinet presents the Governor’s Safety and Health Award in recognition of outstanding safety and health performance. An establishment may qualify for the award if its employees together achieve a required number of hours worked without experiencing a lost-time injury or illness. The required number of hours is dependent upon the number of employees. In the case of Sebree Station, the requirement is 500,000.

The Governor’s Safety and Health Award program is part of Gov. Steve Beshear’s efforts to improve the health of all Kentuckians. The Governor launched [kyhealthnow](#) in February as an aggressive and wide-ranging initiative to significantly reduce incidents

and deaths from Kentucky's dismal health rankings and habits. It builds on Kentucky's successful implementation of health care reform and uses multiple strategies over the next several years to improve the state's collective health.

Every establishment within the geographical boundaries of Kentucky is eligible, even if the establishment won the award the previous year. Eligibility is limited to one award during a 12-month period of time.

The award is a certificate mounted on a wooden plaque. The certificate contains the signatures of Kentucky Gov. Beshear, Secretary Roberts and Department of Workplace Standards Commissioner Anthony Russell.

For more on the Governor's Safety and Health Award, and for a list of past winners, click [here](#).

For more on Big Rivers, visit [www.bigrivers.com](http://www.bigrivers.com).

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*The Kentucky Labor Cabinet's primary responsibility is to ensure that divisions and offices falling under the auspices of the Cabinet work within the jurisdiction of Kentucky labor law to ensure equitable and fair treatment of the Commonwealth's more than 1.9 million wage-earning employees. The Cabinet, according to regulation, has the duties, responsibilities, power, and authority relating to labor, wage and hour issues, occupational safety and health of employees, child labor, apprenticeship, workers' compensation insurance, and all other matters under the jurisdiction of the Labor Cabinet. For more information, visit [www.labor.ky.gov/](http://www.labor.ky.gov/).*

